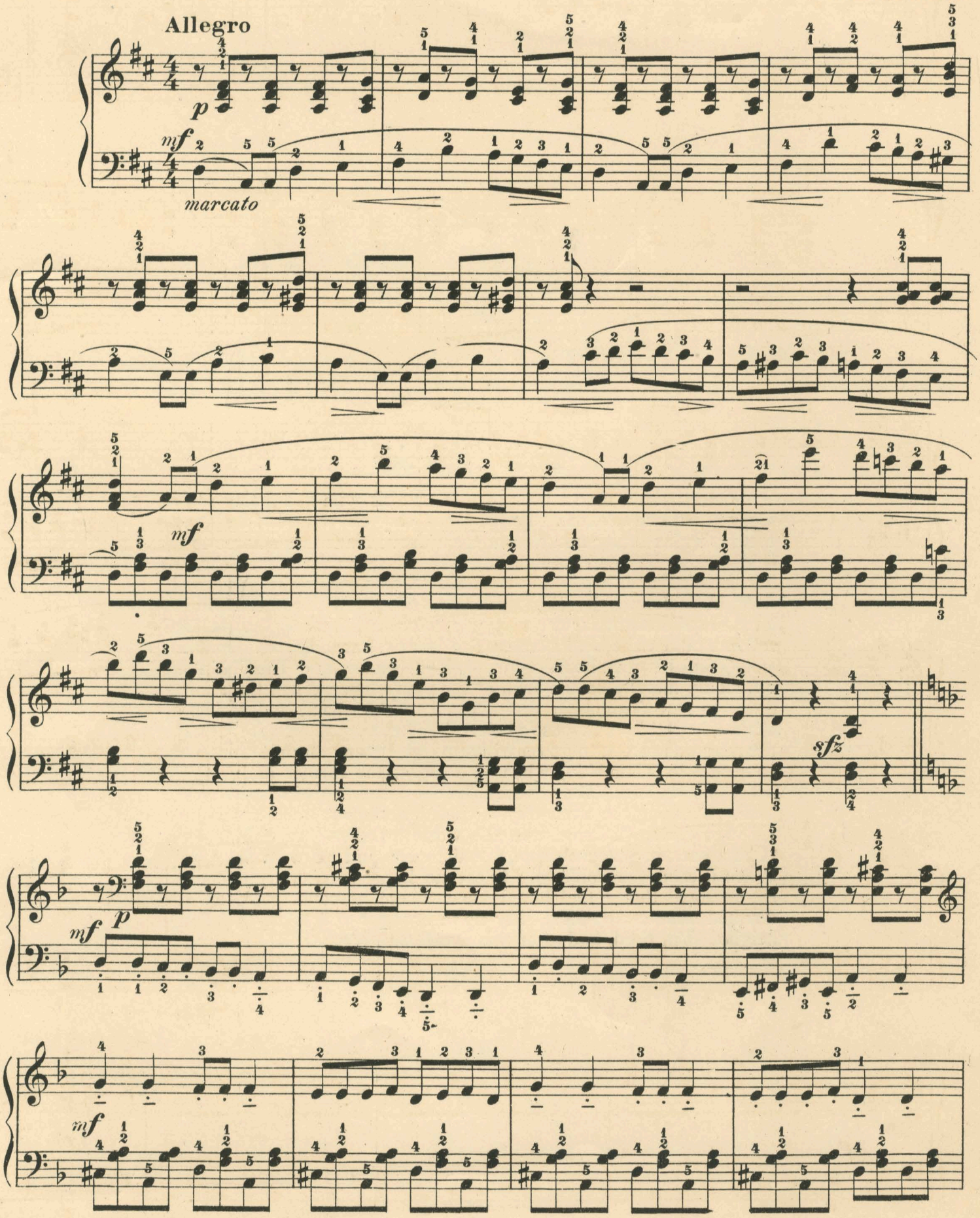
Little Thumbkin

Once upon a time a poor farmer and his wife had a tiny son no bigger than one's thumb. The boy was very clever and often pleased them with his funny tricks. He often drove his father's horse to the field, and, as he could not hold the reins, he sat in the horse's ear, and his "get-up," and "wo," did very well. A man seeing the horse, as he thought, without a driver stopped to wonder, and discovered Thumbkin. He offered the farmer a large sum for him, thinking that the little fellow would make his fortune. The farmer, knowing that Thumbkin would find his way home again, took the money and Thumbkin was off, riding merrily on the brim of the man's hat. When the man sat down to rest, Thumbkin was allowed to run about, and seeing his chance, he ran into a mouse's hole. After poking about with his cane, the man was forced to go on without him. Many strange things had happened to Thumbkin, when, one night, the farmer and his wife heard him calling. They opened the door, and to their suprise saw a wolf. Guessing the truth they fetched the scissors, and soon Thumbkin was free. "I have seen the world, mother," said Thumbkin; "I have been in a mouse's hole, a snail's shell, and a cow swallowed me. When it came the wolf's turn to eat me, he was so hungry and found me so small that I told him I knew where he could get food, and directed him to our door. My noise brought you to my aid and—heigho! I'm tired, and after this I will stay home.

Little Thumbkin

E. R. KROEGER



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FOR PIANO

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